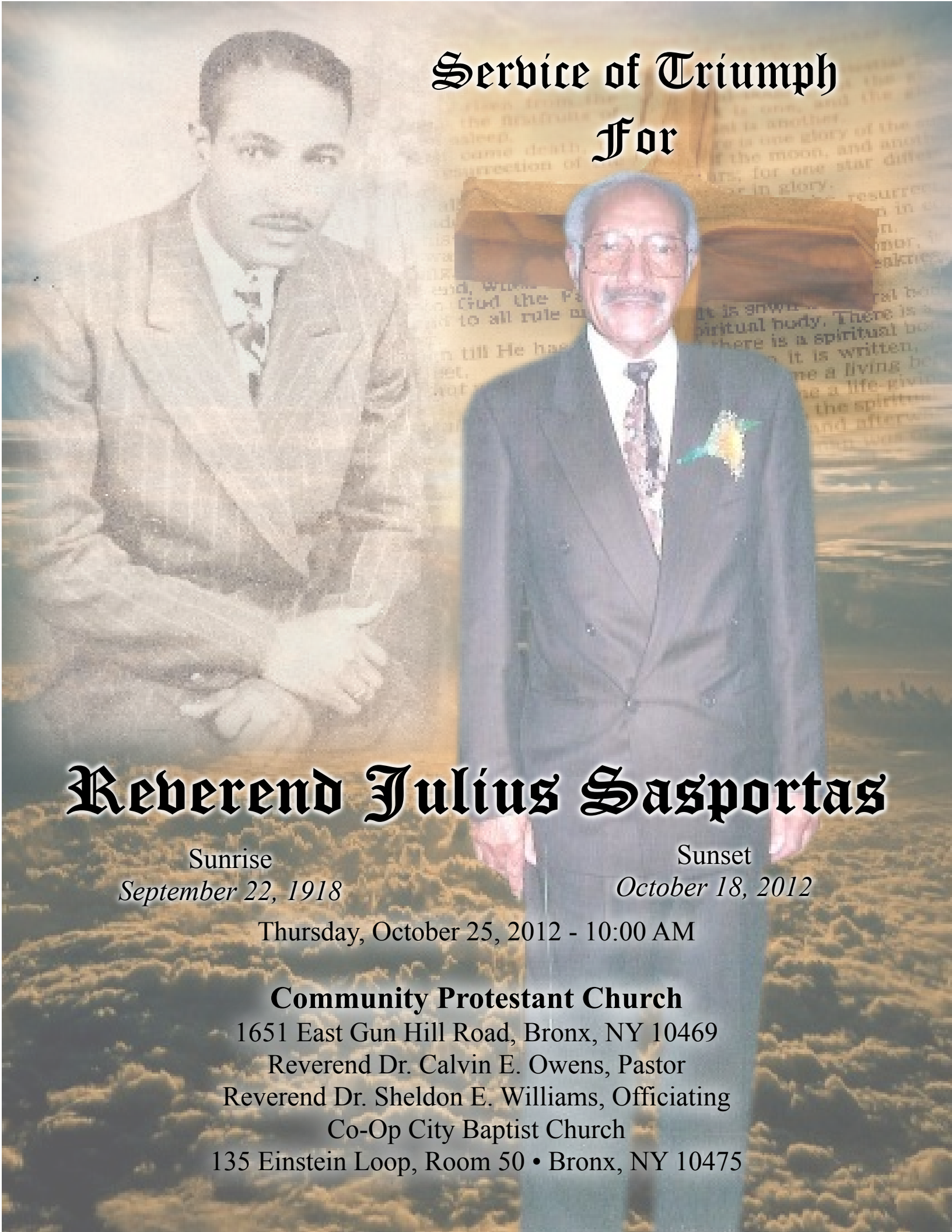


Service of Triumph
For



Reverend Julius Sasportas

Sunrise
September 22, 1918

Sunset
October 18, 2012

Thursday, October 25, 2012 - 10:00 AM

Community Protestant Church
1651 East Gun Hill Road, Bronx, NY 10469
Reverend Dr. Calvin E. Owens, Pastor
Reverend Dr. Sheldon E. Williams, Officiating
Co-Op City Baptist Church
135 Einstein Loop, Room 50 • Bronx, NY 10475

Order of Service

Organ Prelude

The Processional

The Invocation

The Hymn “Oh I want To See Him”

The Prayer of Comfort Reverend Robert Smith, Jr.

The Scriptures

Old Testament, Psalm 103:1-5

New Testament, I Corinthians 15:50-58

The Selection Co-Op City Baptist Church Choir

The Acknowledgements & Obituary Sister Marilyn C. Williams

The Solo “Peace in the Valley”
Nicole Phifer

The Remarks

The Solo “Take My Hand, Precious Lord”
Melusina Sasportas-Reeberg
(Niece of Reverend Julius Sasportas)

The Eulogy Reverend Dr. Sheldon E. Williams

The Selection Co-Op City Baptist Church Choir

The Committal

The Benediction

The Recessional

Interment
Calverton National Cemetery
Calverton, New York

Reflections of Life

Reverend Julius Sasportas, son of the late Eugene and Rosa Sasportas was born in St. Matthews, South Carolina, on September 22, 1918. He was the 7th of 11 offspring in a family that was tight-knit, loving, hard-working, and devoted to Christian service. As a youth, he served as an usher in the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church. His early education was spent in the local schools and he graduated from John Ford High School in St. Matthews.

He served in the United States Army during World War II. Afterwards, in the mid-1940s, he migrated to New York and settled in the Bronx where other family members were already living. There, he was hired as a factory worker and also took up trade as a barber. Later, he was employed as a fireman for the New York City Housing Authority. He held that position for over three decades until his retirement in 1980.

While enjoying his youthful days “up north” he never forgot the family values he was raised with. He remained close to his parents, often visiting them in their aging years in South Carolina. He kept in close contact with his brothers and sisters who relocated to New York City, even living with his sister, the late Lula Caldwell, and her family for some time as well as those siblings who stayed in the south. He also remembered the religious teachings that were instilled in him as a boy. He affiliated with Mt. Sinai Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Rev. Bonaparte and served as a member of the gospel chorus, as he loved to sing. He later became a member of Gethsemane Baptist Church, Bronx, New York. At this time, he was called to serve the Lord in another way; and in December 1955, he was licensed to preach the Gospel. He was ordained to the work of the Gospel of Ministry in April 1958 by the late Rev. E. W. Ghee, pastor of Gethsemane Baptist Church. He continued his religious education, furthering his studies in “Bible Doctrine” and “Evangelism” at Shelton College, where he graduated in 1963.

During these years, he met and fell in love with the late Lola Lucille Ferguson. They were married on January 23, 1960 at Thessalonian Baptist Church, where they both worshipped. From this union, a daughter, Carol, was born. With his wife and young daughter he relocated to a newly developed community, Co-Op City. Rev. Sasportas saw the need for a Baptist Church in this new community. Through prayer, diligent planning, and the direction of the Holy Spirit, he founded the Co-Op City Baptist Church in November 1971. With his beloved wife at his side, and several devoted members, he worked to increase the membership; and the church prospered spiritually and financially. While continuing to work full time, he tirelessly devoted himself to serving our Lord through his ministry. Throughout his pastoral career, he was an active member of various community, civic, and religious organizations from which he received many awards and recognitions for his work. He was a former member of the Hampton Ministers’ Conference and the Baptist Ministers’ Conference of New York and Vicinity. He retired as pastor in September 1992 and was honored for his twenty-one years of service. The legacy on which the Co-Op City Baptist Church was built is continued through the pastorship of his “son in the ministry,” Rev. Dr. Sheldon E. Williams.

Affectionately called “Jewel” by his late wife and siblings, “Uncle Jewel” by his nieces and nephews, and “Rev” by his colleagues and congregation, he was a kind and warm-hearted person. He was a devoted family man with integrity and good character. He often told the story of his childhood illness, of which he recovered under the nurturance of his loving mother. In his midlife, he was diagnosed with diabetes, which he managed with conscientious care. Despite the progression of diabetes, in the recent years, his spirit never faltered. He continued to preach and minister to those in need until he was no longer able to. In the early afternoon hours of October 18, 2012, God called his soldier home. He goes to join his beloved wife, Lola, daughters Gertie Mae Hart, Urylee Harper, and Lynn Hastings. He leaves to cherish lifelong memories, his 2 daughters, Dr. Carol Sasportas-Bharath and Barbara Grannell, son, Richard Stokes; son-in-law, Dr. Martin Bharath; 5 granddaughters, Bessie Marie Hart, Linda Winston, Beatrice Hart, Aundra Bomar, and Christianne Marguerite Bharath; 2 grandsons, David Lee Hart Jr., and Reginald Julian Bharath; 10 great-grandchildren; 5 great-great-grandchildren; a sister-in-law, Zenia Sasportas; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends, including his long-term caregiver Ethline McKenzie, and dear friends Juanita Durden and Mavis Blunt. He will be missed greatly.

“I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.” John 11:25,26

Lovingly Submitted,
The Family

God's Garden

God looked around his garden
And found an empty place,
He then looked down upon the earth
And saw your tired face.
He put his arms around you
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful
He always takes the best.
He knew that you were suffering
He knew you were in pain.
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.
He saw the road was getting rough
And the hills were hard to climb.
So he closed your weary eyelids
And whispered, 'Peace bethine'.
It broke our hearts to lose you
But you didn't go alone,
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.



2012 2007
"Together Again"

Acknowledgement

The Family of **Reverend Julius Sasportas** wishes to extend our deepest gratitude and sincere thanks to everyone for their support and care giving. Perhaps you sent a card, gave us a call, visited us or said a prayer. We truly appreciate your acts of kindness. May God richly bless you all.

Professional Services Provided By
HERBERT T. MCCALL FUNERAL HOME

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Bronx, NY 10459
(718) 589-8428

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